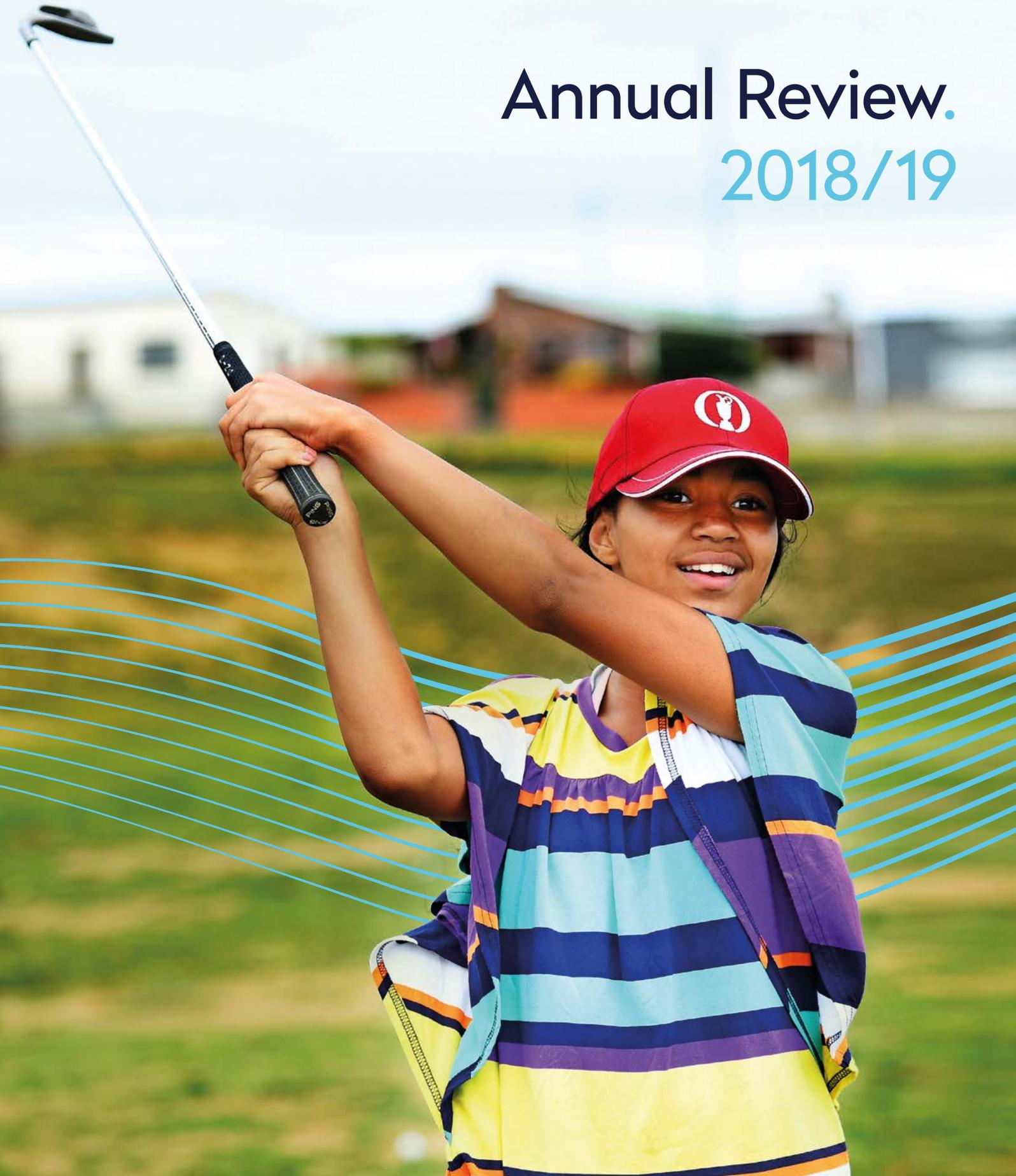




# Annual Review. 2018/19





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# Foreword

Welcome to the 2018/19 review of The R&A's activities; last year was a significant and successful one for our organisation.



The year 2018 marked an important milestone for The R&A as we launched our new brand identity and set out our vision for our work across the key areas of governance, championships, development and sustainability.

We want to ensure that golf continues to thrive 50 years from now and will be enjoyed by many generations to come. We have therefore developed a range of initiatives to help modernise the sport and make it not only more accessible and appealing but also more inclusive for today's society.

The introduction of the new Rules of Golf and the launch of the Women in Golf Charter are just two examples of this. Both initiatives will act as important drivers for the growth and improvement of the sport around the world by providing more opportunities and making it easier for people to take up and enjoy golf as a healthy and fulfilling pursuit.

In our professional championships, golf fans worldwide were captivated

by the achievements of Francesco Molinari and Georgia Hall in winning The Open and the Ricoh Women's British Open respectively.

Both players created history by winning their first major championships; Francesco became the first Italian *Campione Golfista dell'Anno*, while Georgia is the first golfer to add the Women's British Open to earlier successes in the Women's Amateur and Girls Amateur championships and play in the Curtis Cup for Great Britain and Ireland. We really hope that their victories will inspire millions of young golfers around the world.

The commercial success of The Open enables us to invest proceeds from the Championship into the growth and development of the sport around the world. In 2018, over 80 countries received direct funding from The R&A and indirect contributions were made to 20 others. We will continue to use these funds wisely in working with our affiliated national associations and other stakeholders to enhance

golf's appeal globally and take the sport forward.

In June, we had some sad news with the loss of Peter Thomson, who, with five victories, was one of the truly great Champion Golfers. The R&A was represented at his memorial service in Sydney as the world of golf celebrated his life and many wonderful achievements. He will be greatly missed by all who admired both the quality of his play and his sportsmanship.

This is the first year of my tenure as Chairman of The R&A and I look forward to serving and representing our organisation as we work with our partners in golf around the world in what is an exciting time for the sport.

**Ian Pattinson**  
Chairman, The R&A

# Chief Executive's Review

A new chapter in the long history of The R&A began last September as we set out our vision as a global leader in golf, working collaboratively to ensure the long-term success of the sport.

Our new brand identity was unveiled together with a Playbook which outlines our vision, purpose and values. The new brand brings together everything we have done over the last three years to modernise the sport and drive golf forward.

We have listened to our key stakeholders during this time and the message was clear: The R&A has a global role to play in leading the sport forward while working with our partners and affiliates around the world to grow and nurture golf to ensure that it continues to thrive 50 years from now.

Realising this vision will require the organisation to become financially stronger and we aim to invest £200 million over the next ten years to grow and develop golf around the world.

The modernised Rules of Golf came into effect for all golfers on 1 January 2019, marking the biggest set of changes to the Rules in a generation. The revised Rules are more in tune with the way the modern sport is played. We hope that all golfers around the world enjoy the new Rules and the key changes aimed at improving pace of play.

The Modified Rules of Golf for Players with Disabilities also supports our aim of ensuring that golf is an inclusive sport and welcoming to golfers of all abilities. The World Ranking for Golfers with Disability launched at the start of 2019 will also help to grow participation and competition in this area.

Together with the USGA we have launched a comprehensive project to analyse distance in golf and gather perspectives from the worldwide golf community. Distance in golf is a complex issue and the Distance Insights project aims to collate and examine all the relevant data as well as capture the many different perspectives that exist around the world.



Martin Slumbers visited Mission Hills in China to launch The R&A's funding of a new golf scholarship programme. See p.17

We continue to conduct this process openly, comprehensively and promptly and will work with key stakeholders to ensure we have a fully rounded view of distance and its implications. Our primary objective in this review is to ensure an appropriate balance between skill and technology.

The launch of the first ever Women in Golf Charter in May last year signalled our intent to galvanise the golf industry around increasing the number

of women and girls playing golf and to encourage more opportunities for women to work within the golf industry.

We are asking the golf industry to take measures to achieve positive change for women, girls and families and capitalise on this major opportunity for the sport. We will be increasing our investment in women's, girls' and mixed golf to £80m over the next ten years to help realise this vision.

Research has shown that golf can provide significant physical and mental benefits and we were delighted to present the 2018 International Consensus Statement on Golf and Health at the 7th Congress of the International Society for Physical Activity and Health (ISPAH) in London. The Statement will guide actions to be taken by people, policymakers and the golf industry and was published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine.

It was another record-breaking year for The Open as we welcomed 172,000 fans to Carnoustie, surpassing the previous best attendance at the venue set in 1999. We were privileged to watch history being made as Francesco Molinari became the first Italian ever to win The Open and be crowned Champion Golfer of the Year.

The Open has a proven track record of generating substantial economic benefit for the host country in which it

is staged and we were delighted that The 147th Open delivered £120 million of economic benefit to Scotland. We also invested more than £100,000 in legacy projects which will positively enhance the local communities in and around Carnoustie.

Georgia Hall created history on her way to winning the Ricoh Women's British Open for the first time in front of a delighted home crowd at Royal Lytham & St Annes.

We are delighted that Georgia has agreed to support The R&A's drive to inspire more women, girls and families into playing golf by becoming an ambassador. She will play a key role in raising the profile of women's and girls' golf in support of the Women in Golf Charter.

In the financial year to 31 December 2018, we reported an operating profit of £12.1m (2017, £12.4m). This profit is stated after covering our Golf Development commitments of £6.2m (2017, £5.9m), our global governance commitments of £5.3m (2017, £5.9m), as well as the costs of supporting amateur championships and other initiatives of £4.2m (2017, £3.8m). Based on our latest forecasts we remain on track to deliver on our aim of investing £200m into the sport over the ten years from 2017 to 2026.

This has been an exciting and historic year for the organisation and I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to a successful twelve months as well as those who give up their time to support the growth and development of golf around the world in so many different ways. Their continuing passion and commitment are vital to the future of the sport.

**Martin Slumbers**  
Chief Executive, The R&A

# Our Purpose

In 2018, The R&A unveiled a new brand identity and a Playbook outlining its vision, purpose and values. The new brand was the culmination of The R&A's work over the last three years to modernise golf and change perceptions of the sport.

The R&A's vision is to lead by example as a global organisation, working collaboratively with its partners in the sport, that is renowned for its governance work and staging of world class professional and amateur championships.

The Playbook also sets out our purpose: to make golf more accessible, more appealing and more inclusive so that it is thriving 50 years from now and to be responsible for upholding the traditions of golf while embracing change and breaking down barriers to progress.

Our core values are: courage to act in the best interests of the sport; integrity in acting fairly and equally; and inclusivity in growing the sport through achieving greater diversity.

Evolving from the previous R&A mark, the new brand identity retains the R&A blue but utilises a secondary colour palette to represent its strategic priorities in governance, The Open, commercial, amateur golf, relationships, development and sustainability.

• **Governance:**  
Develop a comprehensive, modern and inclusive approach to writing and interpreting the Rules of the sport and so ensure their relevance to all golfers.

• **The Open:**  
Further establish The Open as a pre-eminent sporting event that provides a world class experience for players, fans, media and commercial partners.

• **Commercial:**  
Deliver world class championships while growing revenue and maximising profit for reinvestment in the sport.

• **Amateur Golf:**  
Preserve amateur golf and develop a robust environment for elite amateur golf including world class championships and strong links to education.

• **Relationships:**  
Establish deep, connected and valued relationships with our home affiliates, the USGA, professional tours and major golf nations.

• **Development:**  
Enhance golf's appeal globally, working with our affiliates by providing services, expertise and resources appropriate to their various needs.

• **Sustainability:**  
Through fact-based evidence, contribute and promote environmental excellence and world class leadership in resource efficiency, conservation and social value.

The organisation is also working to become financially stronger and is aiming to invest £200 million in developing golf over the next decade, including £80 million into women's and mixed golf, £55 million into governance activities and £30 million into staging world class amateur events. This is double the investment made in the period from 2007-2016.

More information about The R&A's Playbook is available for download via [www.RandA.org/Playbook](http://www.RandA.org/Playbook)



# Governance

The new Rules of Golf came into effect for all golfers worldwide on 1 January 2019 – the culmination of a seven-year long modernisation process undertaken by The R&A and the USGA to ensure that the Rules are easier to understand and apply for all golfers.

While the Rules have been revised every four years in recent history, this is the first fundamental review since 1984 and it was established to ensure the Rules of Golf fit the needs of today's game and the way it is played around the world.

For the first time ever, a new Player's Edition of the Rules of Golf has been introduced to provide a shorter, more user-friendly version of the Rules for golfers at all levels of the sport. The new book has been translated into more than 30 languages worldwide and over four million copies are being distributed worldwide in addition to being available on digital and mobile platforms.

The Modified Rules of Golf for Players with Disabilities was also released and enables players with disabilities to play fairly with other players with the same or different types of disability and, importantly, with those without disabilities. The Modified Rules were developed in close consultation with the community of players with disabilities and disability organisations.

The R&A and the USGA published the finalised interpretation regarding the use of green-reading materials in golf which came into effect on 1 January 2019. The new interpretation of Rule 4.3 (Use of Equipment) was introduced following a six-week feedback period. It reaffirms the governing bodies' view that the ability of golfers to read greens using their own judgement is an essential skill that should be maintained, while defining how such materials may be used.

A review of the Rules of Amateur Status was not part of the modernisation process but a fundamental review of this set of Rules is now being undertaken, with a provisional completion date of 1 January 2022.

Following the publication of the annual Distance Report last year, a comprehensive project to analyse distance in golf and gather perspectives from the worldwide golf community was launched by The R&A and the USGA as part of the governing bodies' efforts to ensure long-term sustainability of the sport.

The Distance Insights project will examine distance through a multi-pronged approach that includes global stakeholder engagement, third-party data review, and research. Through primary and third-party research, a detailed research and data review and the collection of views from throughout the golf industry, the aim is to achieve better understanding of the contributors to and impacts of distance on golf.

In September, a global online questionnaire and data-gathering exercise on distance in golf was issued in ten languages to golfers and stakeholder groups in which they were asked a series of universal questions about distance in golf. The findings of the global perspectives research are expected to be a vital component of the full Distance Insights report, scheduled to be released in 2019.

The R&A and the USGA are currently working towards the implementation of the World Handicap System, targeted for 2020. The technical specification for the system has been finalised, while the Rules of Handicapping are nearing their final draft form. The two organisations will enter an intensive period of communication and education about the World Handicap System during 2019.





## The Open and Ricoh Women's British Open



Francesco Molinari became the first Italian to lift the famous Claret Jug after holding off the challenge from a resurgent Tiger Woods and the likes of Rory McIlroy, Justin Rose and Xander Schauffele during an enthralling final round to win The 147th Open by two shots.

Sam Locke of Scotland followed in the footsteps of Woods and McIlroy to win the Silver Medal as the leading amateur who played all four rounds of The Open.

A record-breaking crowd of 172,000 attended The Open at Carnoustie, surpassing the 157,000 total set at the famous Angus links in 1999 and setting a new venue attendance record.

A key aim of The R&A is to attract a younger audience to the Championship and more than 20,000 spectators under the age of 25 attended the event at the renowned Scottish venue including Under-16's who gained free admission

under The Open's longstanding Kids go Free initiative.

More than 4,000 spectators also took advantage of free accommodation for young people and a low-cost rate for adults at The Open Camping Village, with Friday and Saturday night full to capacity.

The Open generated £120 million in benefit to Scotland according to an independent study carried out by Sheffield Hallam University's Sport Industry Research Centre.

The Championship delivered an economic impact of £69 million and £51 million in destination marketing activity for Scotland thanks to The Open being broadcast on television to more than 600 million households in 193 countries worldwide.

The study – which was commissioned by The R&A, VisitScotland and Angus Council – also concluded that the

Angus area alone received a £21 million injection of new money from The Open.

England's Georgia Hall created history when she clinched the Ricoh Women's British Open at Royal Lytham & St Annes. She became the first golfer to win the Women's British Open, the Women's Amateur Championship and the Girls Amateur Championship.

The 22-year-old carded a final round 67 to win her maiden major championship by two strokes ahead of Thailand's Pornanong Phatlum to become only the third British player after Karen Stupples and Catriona Matthew to win the Women's British Open since it became a major in 2001.

Atthaya Thitikul, who earned a place in the Women's British Open after winning the inaugural Women's Amateur Asia-Pacific Championship in February last year, claimed the Smyth Salver as the leading amateur who played all four rounds.



THE  
OPEN  
147<sup>TH</sup> CARNOUSTIE

## Commercial

The R&A's commercial activities increase revenues and maximise profits to enable the organisation to make a greater investment in the growth and development of golf around the world. Much of this ambition is tied to the successful delivery of the organisation's professional championships, including The Open and the Women's British Open.

For the first time in the history of The Open, an all-ticket model was implemented ahead of expected high demand for tickets among golf fans to attend The 148th Open at Royal Portrush in July 2019, the first time the Championship has visited the iconic Dunluce links since 1951.

Unprecedented demand for tickets led to all four Championship days being completely sold out in a record-breaking matter of weeks, while Hospitality offerings proved to be very popular with fans and several packages selling out very quickly.

Additional tickets for Championship Days went on sale in April after extending the capacity at Royal Portrush and they sold out within 72 hours of being made available to members of The One Club.

A five-year agreement was reached with leading global insurance provider AIG (American International Group) to become the title sponsor of the Women's

British Open beginning in 2019. The championship will be known as the AIG Women's British Open and is the organisation's first title sponsorship in professional golf.

After 12 very successful years as the title sponsor, RICOH will continue to support the Women's British Open as an official supplier for the championship.

Five-time Champion Golfer of the Year Tom Watson was appointed as the first ever Global ambassador for The Open, a role which will see him promoting golf's most international major championship around the world. In his role as ambassador for The Open, Watson will take part in a range of promotional and media activities on behalf of the Championship.

Golf fans were given a unique opportunity to support the growth and development of the sport around the world following the launch of a series of exclusive Champion Golfer memorabilia collections.

The Open Auction website, a first for the UK Golf Market, featured limited edition memorabilia from golf's original championship and enabled fans to submit bids online for items which have been specially created for the auction website.

# Amateur Golf

In 2018, The R&A introduced an exciting new open championship for girls as part of its drive to increase the number of girls playing golf and to provide more competitive opportunities for talented young golfers.

The Girls Under-16 Open Championship was played at Fulford in April and was won by Hannah Darling after the young Scot holed a closing 40-foot birdie putt to seal a dramatic victory in Yorkshire.

Jovan Rebula won The 123rd Amateur Championship after a 3&2 success in the Final at Royal Aberdeen. The 20-year-old from South Africa, nephew of Ernie Els, defeated Ireland's Robin Dawson to win the title and seal his place in The 147th Open at Carnoustie and the 2019 US Open at Pebble Beach. He also received an invitation to the Masters Tournament.

Leonie Harm became the first German to lift the Ladies Amateur Championship title in its 115-year history, triumphing at Hillside by defeating the USA's Stephanie Lau in

the final. Harm earned a spot in the Women's British Open at Royal Lytham & St Annes.

At Ardglass in Northern Ireland, Emma Spitz also achieved history as the first Austrian to win the Girls Amateur Championship, seeing off countrywoman Isabella Holpfer, while further north at Royal Portrush, England's Conor Gough defeated Jose Luis Ballester of Spain to capture the Boys Amateur Championship.

The United States of America regained the Curtis Cup at Quaker Ridge after a record-breaking 17-3 victory over Great Britain and Ireland in New York. The home side, which featured six of the top 10 players in the World Amateur Golf Ranking™, claimed all eight of Sunday's singles matches to clinch the match by the largest winning margin in its history.

The St Andrews Trophy match was won by the Continent of Europe after a record 15½-9½ victory at Linna Golf in Finland, but GB&I took the spoils against their continental European

counterparts with a win by the same score in the Jacques Leglise Trophy at Kytäjä Golf, also in Finland.

There were also wins for England in both the Boys and Girls Home Internationals, while Scotland won the Ladies title for the first time since 2010 after a thrilling finale at Ballybunion. Ireland retained the Ladies Senior Home Internationals.

Trevor Foster lifted the Seniors Amateur Championship at Royal Porthcawl, leading from start to finish to win by nine shots, while Ireland's Laura Webb won by the same margin as she eased to victory in the Ladies Senior Amateur Championship at Crail.



# Relationships

The R&A is continuing to work with its affiliated national associations, the USGA, the professional tours and other golfing bodies to establish and maintain valued relationships for the benefit of golf worldwide.

The Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship (AAC) reached a new milestone when the tenth staging of the region's flagship amateur event was played over the New Tanjong Course at Sentosa in Singapore.

Run by The R&A, the Masters Tournament and the Asia-Pacific Golf Confederation, the AAC continues to drive the growth and development of amateur golf in the region and the event attracted 120 golfers from 40 APGC member associations last year.

Japan's Takumi Kanaya followed in the footsteps of his renowned countryman Hideki Matsuyama when he shot a five-under-par 65 in the final round to finish two strokes ahead of India's Rayhan Thomas and 2018 Asian Games gold medallist Keita Nakajima.

The 20-year-old earned a place in The 148th Open at Royal Portrush and an invitation to the 2019 Masters Tournament. As runners-up, both Thomas and Nakajima will get the opportunity to play in The Open Qualifying Series.

Founded by The R&A, the Masters Tournament and the USGA, the Latin America Amateur Championship

(LAAC) was established to grow and develop golf in South America, Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean.

Two-time runner-up and one-time joint third-place finisher Alvaro Ortiz clinched the 2019 LAAC after a keenly contested duel with Luis Gagne of Costa Rica at the renowned Teeth of the Dog course at Casa de Campo. The Mexican finally secured his dream victory with a 14-under-par total of 274, two shots clear of Gagne.

Teenage Thai star Atthaya Thitikul emerged from a four-way play-off to secure a dramatic wire-to-wire victory at the inaugural Women's Amateur Asia-Pacific Championship, organised by The R&A and the Asia-Pacific Golf Confederation.

At Sentosa Golf Club, Thitikul carded a closing 71 to join Japan's Yuna Nishimura (69), the Philippines' Yuka Saso (68) and New Zealand's Wenyung Keh (67) on eight-under-par total of 276 over the New Tanjong course.

The World Amateur Golf Team Championships, which are organised by the International Golf Federation (IGF) with The R&A and the USGA, took place at Carton House in Ireland. The Eisenhower Trophy was won by the Norwegian team of John Axelsen, Nicolai Højgård and Rasmus Højgård, while Jennifer

Kupcho, Kristen Gillman and Lilia Vu of the United States of America combined to win the Espirito Santo Trophy by ten shots.

The World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR™) is jointly administered by The R&A and the USGA. It is the established benchmark for elite amateur golfers to measure their performance against that of their peers.

WAGR™, which is supported by Rolex, continues to grow each year and currently encompasses more than 2,860 counting events, ranking 6,260 players from 106 countries in the men's ranking while the women's ranking has a calendar of more than 1,650 counting events with more than 2,960 ranked players from 84 countries.

Each year the leading golfer of each ranking is awarded the McCormack Medal, named after IMG founder Mark H McCormack. In 2018, Braden Thornberry and Jennifer Kupcho of the United States of America led the men's and women's ranking.

Beginning in 2019, The R&A and the USGA assumed administration of a global ranking for golfers with disabilities to help grow participation and competition around the world and to promote inclusivity within the sport. The World Ranking for Golfers with Disability was launched on 1 January and is administered in tandem with WAGR™ for both men and women.



# 2,860

Counting men's events  
ranking 6,260 players  
from 106 countries

# 1,650+

Counting women's events  
ranking more than 2,960 players  
from 84 countries



## Development

The R&A works to enhance golf's appeal globally, supporting its affiliates by providing services, expertise and resources appropriate to their various needs.

Last year, The R&A unveiled a new Women in Golf Charter as part of the organisation's drive to increase the number of women and girls participating in golf and to encourage more opportunities for women to work within golf.

Chief Executive Martin Slumbers outlined the organisation's plans to work in collaboration with its affiliates, partners and the wider golf industry to achieve these goals at a launch event at The View from The Shard, one of London's most iconic venues.

The Women in Golf Charter aims to inspire an industry-wide commitment to developing a more inclusive culture within golf around the world and to enable more women and girls to flourish and maximise their potential at all levels of the sport.

Adoption of the Charter requires national federations and other golf bodies to build on current initiatives and develop new projects focused on encouraging more women and girls to play golf and stay within the sport as members of clubs, while also empowering women to enjoy successful careers working within the golf industry.

Commissioned by the World Golf Foundation and supported by The R&A, the 2018 International Consensus Statement on Golf and Health aimed at promoting positive actions by people, policymakers and the golf industry was published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine.

The research was presented at the 7th Congress of the International Society for Physical Activity and Health (ISPAH) in London, a biennial scientific meeting that is widely regarded as the world's flagship physical activity and public health event and is attended this year by more than 1,000 delegates from 60 countries.

Findings revealed that playing golf is associated with a range of physical and mental health benefits, and a global consensus amongst leaders in public health, public policy and sport backed golf in the race to tackle physical inactivity and the prevention of a range of non-communicable diseases (NCD).

Marking the close of the ISPAH Congress, public health practitioners, policymakers and golf industry leaders were hosted at a satellite event in the Palace of Westminster by the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Golf.

The R&A announced that it will provide funding towards a new golf scholarship programme being set up by the Mission Hills Group in China, which is the world's largest golf facility.

The scholarships will support talented young Chinese golfers by providing financial grants towards their golf training and competition. The announcement took place following a keynote address by Martin Slumbers to more than 200 delegates at Sports Connects, the China Sports Forum.

The R&A 9 Hole Challenge Final was staged on the eve of The 147th Open at Carnoustie when a group of 42 amateur men and women golfers played the first four and last five holes of the famous Championship Course. Christopher Cudahy and Andrew Sabin of Tadmarton Heath in Oxfordshire were victorious.

Over 15,000 golfers entered nine hole qualifying events held at clubs throughout Great Britain and Ireland, more than double the number who played in 2017. In Scotland, the national nine hole final hosted by Milnathort spanned two days due to the high volume of entries.

The nine hole initiative forms part of The R&A's drive to promote shorter formats of the sport as a quick and enjoyable way to enjoy golf either recreationally or competitively.

Community projects in Carnoustie received support from The Open Legacy Fund

## Sustainability

Sustainability is a priority area for The R&A and its goal is to contribute and promote environmental excellence and world class leadership in resource efficiency, conservation and social value.

The organisation has introduced Golf Course 2030 to raise awareness of the sustainability issues, challenges and opportunities facing the sport and to reach agreement with golf industry stakeholders on a road map that secures optimal golf course condition and playability for current and future generations.

Action plans will be developed to address

challenges to course conditioning and playability presented by climate change, reduced resource availability and increased legislative regulation. The initiative is being piloted in Great Britain and Ireland with plans to expand to Europe and further afield in the coming years.

Local community initiatives and projects in and around Carnoustie were given the opportunity to apply for legacy funding following the successful staging of The 147th Open at the famous Angus links. The R&A provided £100,000 from the proceeds

of the Championship, via Angus Council, to select recipients which will help to enhance social and environmental value within communities.

GreenLinks is The Open's sustainability programme and is designed to ensure that it remains at the forefront of major sporting events in managing its impact on the environment and the local community. In 2018, the organisation removed the provision of single use plastic straws from all on-site catering and hospitality as part of its continuous improvement programme of environmental measures.

The R&A awarded its first Greenkeeping Scholarship in Northern Ireland as The College of Agriculture, Food & Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) became the newest addition to the approved higher education institutions participating in the programme, joining SRUC Elmwood College in Scotland and Myerscough College in England.

Callum Burnside from Carrickfergus became the first student from CAFRE to be awarded an R&A Greenkeeping Scholarship and joins over 320 scholars across 30 different countries. The programme was established in

2004 to assist greenkeepers studying higher level greenkeeping and sportsturf qualifications.

In July, the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Golf hosted a panel discussion on golf and the environment in the Palace of Westminster. MPs and Peers were joined by associate members and an expert panel in Parliament to discuss issues such as climate change, water and energy use and conservation, ecological protection and preventing pollution.

The panel included Steve Isaac, Director

of Sustainability at The R&A; Jim Croxton, Chief Executive of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association; Jonathan Smith, Executive Director of the Golf Environment Organisation; and Bob Taylor, Head of Ecology and Environment at the Sports Turf Research Institute.

The All-Party Parliamentary Golf Group will look to further promote the positive contribution that golf makes to the environment, and the efforts that a range of golf organisations are making to ensure the industry is environmentally sustainable.



# The R&A Foundation

The R&A Foundation provides grant funding from the proceeds of The Open to support the development of golf around the world. These grants aim to advance participation in the sport by providing playing facilities and equipment and by funding golf events, coaching programmes and projects to promote the health benefits of golf.

The R&A Foundation also aims to encourage education through the provision of scholarships to allow recipients to attend college and university, as well as providing grants

to acquire and preserve records and artefacts relating to the history of golf.

The R&A has committed to invest more than £2 million in the Golf Foundation over the next four years to support its drive to inspire more young people to play golf and to increase the retention of juniors within the sport to boost membership.

The Golf Foundation will give over two million young people the opportunity to try golf for the first time using its Tri-Golf and Street Golf participation

initiatives, which take adapted versions of the sport to young people at schools, sports centres, parks and multi-use games facilities in Great Britain and Ireland.

Around 180,000 junior participants will also be introduced to coaching through the Golf Foundation's HBSC Golf Roots Centres, a large network of junior friendly golf clubs that provide taster sessions in local schools and coaching delivered by PGA Professionals.

The R&A continues to support the work of the PGA with a £200,000 grant awarded annually to the association to fund initiatives aimed at growing and developing the sport.

The PGA is aiming to increase the number of women entering its training programme and working in coaching roles in golf, including those attending The Open and Women's British Open to assist with activities provided for fans.

It will also continue to support The R&A SwingZone at The Open and actively promote R&A initiatives across the Rules of Golf, Pace of Play and shorter forms of the game, including The R&A 9 Hole Challenge.

The R&A increased its support for the Ladies European Tour (LET) to £100,000 to help further its aims in the women's professional game. £40,000 will also be provided to the LET Access Series, which supports the transition of golfers into the professional ranks from the amateur game.

Around £80,000 per year is provided to the ANNIKA Foundation, which was set-up and is run by ten-time major champion Annika Sorenstam, to help fund several initiatives aimed at encouraging more women and girls into golf.

The R&A's funding has been used to support the expansion of the ANNIKA Invitational series of junior golf events, including those in Latin America, Europe and Australasia, and to encourage the development of golf in these regions. The inaugural event in Australasia was held at Royal Wellington in New Zealand in December 2018 and won by Australia's Grace Kim, who set a new course record 62.

The R&A has also invested £225,000 over three years to support the continuing growth of Golf Canada's Future Links junior golf initiative. Future Links provides children aged 6-18 with the chance to enjoy and learn golf via affordable and accessible programmes that are aligned to and support the principles of golf's long-term player development guide. More than one million junior golfers have successfully participated in Future Links since its inception in 1996.



## Affiliated Organisations

The R&A, through R&A Rules Ltd, governs the sport worldwide, outside of the United States and Mexico, on behalf of over 36 million golfers in 143 countries and with the consent of 157 organisations from amateur and professional golf.

### Europe

Albanian Golf Association  
 Andorra Golf Association  
 National Golf Association of Armenia  
 Austrian Golf Association  
 Azerbaijan Golf Federation  
 Royal Belgian Golf Federation  
 Bulgarian Golf Association  
 Cyprus Golf Federation  
 Czech Golf Federation  
 Danish Golf Union  
 England Golf  
 Estonian Golf Association  
 Finnish Golf Union  
 French Golf Federation  
 Georgian Golf Federation  
 German Golf Association  
 Hellenic Golf Federation (Greece)  
 Hungarian Golf Federation  
 Golf Union of Iceland  
 Golfing Union of Ireland  
 Irish Ladies Golf Union  
 Israel Golf Federation  
 Italian Golf Federation  
 Latvian Golf Federation  
 Liechtenstein Golf Federation  
 Lithuanian Golf Federation  
 Luxembourg Golf Federation  
 Macedonian Golf Federation  
 Malta Golf Association  
 Netherlands Golf Federation  
 Norwegian Golf Federation  
 Polish Golf Union  
 Portuguese Golf Federation  
 Romanian Golf Federation  
 Russian Golf Association  
 Scottish Golf  
 Golf Association of Serbia  
 Slovak Golf Association  
 Golf Association of Slovenia  
 Royal Spanish Golf Federation  
 Swedish Golf Federation  
 Swiss Golf Association  
 Turkish Golf Federation  
 Ukrainian Golf Federation  
 Wales Golf

### The Americas

Argentine Golf Association  
 Bahamas Golf Federation  
 Barbados Golf Association  
 Belize Amateur Golf Association  
 Bermuda Golf Association  
 Bolivian Golf Federation  
 Brazilian Golf Confederation  
 Golf Canada  
 Cayman Islands Golf Association  
 Chilean Golf Federation

Colombian Golf Federation  
 Costa Rica Golf Association  
 Curacao Golf Association  
 Dominican Republic Golf Association  
 Ecuador Golf Federation  
 El Salvador Golf Federation  
 Falkland Islands Golf Association  
 Guatemala National Golf Association  
 Guyana Golf Union  
 Golf Federation of Haiti  
 Honduras Golf Federation  
 Jamaica Golf Association  
 Nicaraguan Golf Federation  
 Panama Golf Association  
 Paraguay Golf Association  
 Peruvian Golf Federation  
 Puerto Rico Golf Federation  
 St Maarten Golf Association  
 (Kingdom of the Netherlands)  
 Trinidad & Tobago Golf Association  
 Uruguay Golf Association  
 Venezuela Golf Federation  
 Virgin Islands Golf Federation

### Asia

Afghanistan Golf Federation  
 Bahrain Golf Association  
 Bangladesh Golf Federation  
 Royal Bhutan Golf Federation  
 Cambodian Golf Federation  
 China Golf Association  
 Chinese Taipei Golf Association  
 Emirates Golf Federation  
 Hong Kong Golf Association  
 Indian Golf Union  
 Indonesian Golf Association  
 Islamic Republic of Iran Golf Federation  
 Japan Golf Association  
 Jordan Golf Committee  
 Kazakhstan Golf Federation  
 Korea Golf Association  
 Golf Federation of Kyrgyzstan  
 Lao National Golf Federation  
 Lebanese Golf Federation  
 Malaysian Golf Association  
 Mongolian Golf Association  
 Myanmar Golf Federation  
 Nepal Golf Association  
 Oman Golf Committee  
 Pakistan Golf Federation  
 National Golf Association of the Philippines  
 Qatar Golf Association  
 Saudi Arabian Golf Federation  
 Singapore Golf Association  
 Sri Lanka Golf Union  
 Thailand Golf Association  
 Vietnam Golf Association

### Africa

Algerian Golf Federation  
 Botswana Golf Union  
 Cameroon Golf Federation  
 Democratic Republic of Congo  
 Golf Federation  
 Egyptian Golf Federation  
 Gabonese Golf Federation  
 Gambia Golf Association  
 Ghana Golf Association  
 Ivory Coast Golf Federation  
 Kenya Golf Union  
 Liberia Golf Association  
 Libyan Golf Federation  
 Madagascar Golf Association  
 Golf Union of Malawi  
 Mauritius Golf Federation  
 Royal Moroccan Golf Federation  
 Namibia Golf Federation  
 Nigeria Golf Federation  
 Seychelles Golf Federation  
 Senegalese Golf Federation  
 Sierra Leone Golf Federation  
 South African Golf Association  
 Swaziland Golf Union  
 Tanzania Golf Union  
 Tunisian Golf Federation  
 Uganda Golf Union  
 Zambia Golf Union  
 Zimbabwe Golf Association

### Oceania

Golf Australia  
 Cook Islands Golf Federation  
 Golf Fiji  
 New Zealand Golf Incorporated  
 Papua New Guinea Golf Association  
 Samoa Golf Incorporated  
 Vanuatu Golf Association

### Transnational Affiliated Organisations

Africa Golf Confederation  
 Asia-Pacific Golf Confederation  
 Asian Tour  
 Caribbean Golf Association  
 Council of National Golf Unions  
 European Golf Association  
 Ladies European Tour  
 Oceania Golf Union  
 PGA European Tour  
 Professional Golfers' Association  
 PGAs of Europe  
 South American Golf Federation

# Our world of golf



143

Countries

28

Championships

157

Affiliate Organisations

36

Million Golfers

2,500

Royal & Ancient Golf Club  
Members Worldwide

10,000

Players in the  
World Amateur Golf Ranking™

200

Employees



The R&A group of companies was formed in 2004 to take on The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews' responsibilities for governing the Rules of Golf, staging The Open, golf's original championship, and developing the sport. The British Golf Museum in St Andrews is part of the R&A group.

Together The R&A and the USGA govern the sport of golf worldwide, operating in separate jurisdictions with a commitment to a single code for the Rules of Golf, Rules of Amateur Status and Equipment Standards. The R&A, through R&A Rules Ltd, governs the sport worldwide, outside of the United States and Mexico, on behalf of over 36 million golfers in 143 countries and with the consent of 157 organisations from amateur and professional golf.

The R&A merged with the Ladies' Golf Union in 2017 and now has responsibility for running a series of world class amateur events and international matches in women's and girls' as well as men's and boys golf. The R&A works with IMG to stage the Women's British Open and with the European Tour to stage the Senior Open.

The R&A is committed to investing £200 million in developing golf over the next decade and supports the growth of the sport internationally, including the development and management of sustainable golf facilities. For more information, visit [www.randa.org](http://www.randa.org).



[RandA.org](http://RandA.org)

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